

CONGRESS ON ROAD TO BALANCING BUDGET

HON. RANDY TATE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. TATE. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of each month, my wife and I sit down together and balance our family budget. Balancing a budget is something that all American businesses and families must do. It's time Congress follows the lead of its citizens.

Congress has the ability to balance the budget. It simply hasn't had the will. Only once in the last 30 years has the Federal Government had the backbone to balance the budget.

The tax limitation balanced budget amendment, introduced by Representative JOE BARTON, Republican from Texas, House Judiciary Committee Chairman HENRY HYDE, Republican from Illinois, and me, is exactly the tool needed. The tax limitation balanced budget amendment is the change in the way Government does business that the American people have demanded.

Our balanced budget amendment requires a three-fifths majority vote to raise taxes, borrow money, or add to the deficit.

If a three-fifths vote had been required during the 103d Congress, the Clinton budget, which contained one of the largest tax increases in history, would not have passed. Instead, it passed by 1 vote leaving another Congress that took more of your money and still didn't balance the budget.

On the historic first day of the 104th Congress, the House overwhelmingly passed a rule that requires a three-fifths majority vote to increase income tax rates. We need that same strong, bipartisan support in order to pass this needed constitutional amendment.

If we are sincere about shrinking the size and scope of our Federal Government, as the people asked us to do last November, then we must pass the tax limitation balanced budget amendment.

The national debt is over \$4.5 trillion. Your share exceeds \$13,000. To save future generations, this reckless accumulation of debt must stop.

The tax limitation balanced budget amendment is not a quick fix to our financial problems. Instead, it is a bold and needed measure that will restore fiscal sanity and discipline to a free-spending Congress.

This is the highest priority of the new Republican House majority. We must make it harder for Congress to dip into your wallet, not easier. By requiring a three-fifths majority vote, Congress will be forced to cut spending before reaching into your pockets and raising your taxes first.

There are cries from some who say that a constitutional amendment is not needed—that fiscal discipline alone can balance our budget. Wrong.

The tired policies of the past have failed before and will fail again. It is time to make Congress accountable to the people we serve.

There is nothing terrible about asking the Federal Government to live within its means.

But there are some that are still opposed to fiscal responsibility and reduced spending. Sunday, Secretary of Labor Robert Reich said on "Meet the Press" that the President is "against simply balancing the budget," and

that the goal of a balanced budget was not his goal. Even after the voters have demanded spending cuts and fiscal responsibility, the Clinton administration seems content to spend more money it doesn't have—a luxury that American families can't afford.

Americans are demanding that we shrink Government and act responsibly. Many are shocked to see opposition to such a common-sense solution as our amendment. We will fight against those special interests that insist on the status quo.

If 49 States can operate under balanced budget requirements, so can Congress.

The answer to our Nation's problems is not spending more money and raising taxes. The answer is a tax limitation balanced budget amendment that will force Congress to make the same tough choices you and your family make every day.

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Charlene Beyer of Round Lake Park, IL, exemplifies the many qualities which all Americans today should strive to attain. Mrs. Beyer embodies a sound work ethic, profamily values, and she is an upstanding citizen as well as a fellow public servant.

I commend to the attention of my colleagues the following article entitled, "Service With a Smile," found in the January 8, 1995, issue of the Chicago Tribune. May we all adopt and practice these superior values in the hopes of setting the appropriate pattern for future generations in America and our Government.

[From the Chicago Tribune, Jan. 8, 1995]

SERVICE WITH A SMILE—MEET CHARLENE BEYER, WAITRESS AND MAYOR OF ROUND LAKE PARK

(By Lauren May)

Round Lake Park Mayor Charlene Beyer has been serving her community for about a year and a half, but she's been serving customers at Mers restaurant in Wauconda longer than that.

To supplement her mayoral income which averages out to be about 50 cents an hour, Beyer waits tables every weekend at the family eatery.

To Beyer, 37, mother of five, it's a living. "I wake up with a bad back like every other waitress does," Beyer said. "To me, it's my life. I don't think it's an easy one, but I know that that's the life I'm living, and I would work five nights if I had to to get my kids where they need to go. And that's basically what I'll have to do."

Beyer said waiting tables is probably the best way to earn some extra cash in a short period of time.

"I can make on the weekends what girls in an office make in a whole week," she explained. "I can't take 40 hours out of my week and go work for something I can do in two nights."

Time constraints dictate the type of second job Beyer can have, because she home-schools three of her children. About six to eight hours of each weekday is devoted to her three youngest children, ages 8, 10 and 12. She also has a 16-year-old in high school and a 15-year-old who attends a performing-arts school in Michigan.

Most nights during the week she is off to a board meeting, and on some weekend days

she attends village events, so her mayoral duties can occupy from 15 to 30 hours of her time each week. She also is the Avon Township chairwoman of the Republican Party.

Beyer said she thinks most people in her village do not know about her moonlighting job as a waitress, but regular patrons of the Wauconda landmark on the shores of Bangs Lake know her well.

"I think she's a wonderful lady," said Rep. Al Salvi (R-Wauconda), whose office is just down the street from the restaurant. "She is a real genuine person."

Like many of the restaurant's "regulars," Salvi said he often requests Beyer to be his waitress. He said the job gives her the opportunity to mingle with people, including local politicians who frequent the establishment. But most of all, Salvi said, it proves that she is just a regular person.

"She's one of us," he said. "She's the kind of mayor every village should have."

Round Lake Park Village Board member June Bessert sees Beyer's dual jobs as "proof that you can hold a higher office no matter what your calling in life is. I really see nothing wrong in that; it's an honest way of earning a living. She's very intelligent."

And according to her boss, Beyer is the kind of mayor every restaurant should have.

"She's good PR for us," Rosemary Mers said, "We like telling everybody that the mayor will 'wait on you tonight.'"

Customers at first don't always believe that the mayor of a nearby town is serving them dinner. "At first they think we're teasing," Mers said. "They're flattered."

Mers hired Beyer about five years ago, before Beyer had any aspirations of becoming Round Lake Park mayor. After she was elected, Mers said she was not surprised when Beyer told her she wanted to keep her waitressing position.

"A long time ago, that's how government was," Beyer said. "It wasn't the attorneys and the professional people that were doing it; it was just the common people that went in and made a difference."

Although heading a town with a population of about 4,500 and serving steak and lobster to restaurant patrons may seem to be on opposite ends of the employment spectrum, Beyer contends that there are few differences between her dual occupations.

"I feel [they're] very similar," she said, listing their likenesses. "The customer is always right. You're there to serve them. The demands are many. They want, as most people want now, instant solutions to the problems that they have."

And, in fact, the frustration of not getting any answers herself as a new resident of Round Lake Park ultimately drove Beyer to seek office. She served as a trustee from 1989 to 1991 and was elected mayor in 1993, taking office in April, she said.

"I just wanted to be listened to," Beyer said. "So I guess you can say that I was frustrated and decided that my frustration would be turned into determination. When I look at something and get frustrated, I don't turn around and walk away."

That determination to make a difference had been passed on to Beyer not only by her family, which also has roots in politics, but also by her first boss.

At age 15, Beyer worked as a carhop at Dog 'n Suds in Wauconda, where she grew up. The owner of the drive-up restaurant was—not surprisingly—the then-mayor of Wauconda, Ken Potter.

"He, along with others, had at an early age been instilling in me ideas and the concepts of government," Beyer said. "So I worked on my first campaign when I was 15 years old to elect him to be mayor."

Beyer married her Wauconda High School sweetheart, Skip Beyer, a carpenter, when she was 18, and they have five children. The decision to teach her children at home is one Beyer is glad she made. Considering the amount of time spent working as mayor and a waitress, Beyer said she feels lucky to be able to spend the entire day with her kids.

"[Home schooling] is a lot of work, but I see a lot of benefit out of it, too," she said. "There's not a right way or a wrong way [to educate your kids]. With my schedule, it has served in a real positive way because I have been able to stay home with my kids."

Skip said his wife's long hours can be difficult, but "it's what she wants to do and what she likes to do best," he said. "She's just very tenacious on what she does."

With a mayoral salary of about \$6,000 a year, Beyer certainly is not in it for the money, she said. She admitted, however, that her title has come in handy.

As a mayor, her calls get answered.

"When I was just Charlene Beyer, without a title, I had the same ideas, the same thoughts, the same opinions. They haven't changed," she said. "But then when they put a title behind my name, my calls get answered. People have respect for me."

Beyer said some politicians' abuse of their titles and power has caused people to be intimidated by them, but that's not the image she is trying to project.

"I would rather people know me for me and my actions, other than me saying who I am," she said.

Her actions, starting with her first two months in office, speak for themselves. Only a week after Beyer began her mayoral duties, her mother died unexpectedly. The following week, a resident committed suicide, and about a month and a half later, the town flooded.

"It was a very emotional thing for me, because my wounds were very fresh," she said. "And yet, there's a part of me that greets every negative, every negative situation, knowing that somewhere in there is a positive."

Crediting basic common sense, Beyer met her new challenges head-on. She arranged to have meals sent to the family of the suicide victim, and when the flooding crisis hit, Beyer met it with planning and organization.

She and her staff of volunteers monitored all calls coming into the village hall and called all of the senior citizen residents to check if they needed assistance and to help prepare them for the next storm.

"We were not crushed by this wave," she said. "We greeted it with a lot of planning. It was a very frustrating time, but we never had one resident, through both of the floods, come here and be upset at the board for what they weren't doing."

"It was a basic common-sense thing. People want to be informed, they want to be communicated to, and they want to be educated. And when you've done those three things, sometimes there are no solutions. Sometimes there is no quick fix, but when you've done that, they feel comfortable that you're doing the best that you can do."

Joyce Weissmueller, a village trustee, thinks Beyer has performed well as mayor. "She delegates, but she personally is out there doing things," Weissmueller said. "The personal touch is Charlene."

Weissmueller said Beyer's strength is getting people to work together. Her dedication to the village is apparent by the new committees she has established, including an economic development committee to revitalize the downtown area, as well as a beautification committee to clean it up, Weissmueller said.

Beyer said that techniques she uses in dealing with people as mayor also work at

her weekend job. Most customers understand. "That's the part of being a waitress that is very difficult," she said. "It's no different than being a mom. And it's no different than being a mayor, because there's lots of people that don't understand what I'm doing and what the board's decisions are because they're not involved and they falsely accuse."

"You have to be so convinced of your position and your standards and your decisions that that doesn't bother you."

Beyer said the pressure at her waitressing job sometimes increases when she is serving her political peers.

She recalled a situation in which an elderly man accused her of stealing the credit card he had used to pay his tab, when in fact he had inadvertently placed it in his glasses case.

"He stood up, and the whole restaurant heard," she said. "It was very humbling, because I was being accused falsely."

All the while, Beyer had to maintain her composure.

"It's a very humbling thing to be in that kind of environment," Beyer said. "It's not that there's anything wrong with being a waitress, but it's not normal that a mayor of a village is waitressing in a restaurant."

But she is quick to defend the profession that is plagued by a misconception that those who work in it are not intelligent.

"Waitresses, I think, are very gifted people," Beyer said. "They're almost like housewives to me because they're able to do many things at one time."

"They're very educated people," she said of her coworkers, who include several teachers. "Most people I work with have college degrees. I don't. But we're all equal."

Beyer said she has no plans to get her college degree because she does not have the time or the money.

"If I had the money for a college education, it's going to be going to my children, not myself," she said.

Beyer sees her lack of education as a plus for her job as mayor.

"When I look at an issue, I'm not clouded by what I've been taught, what is politically correct," she said. "I can deal with a situation probably differently than most people do because I greet it differently. I greet it from the people's perspective."

"I hope I always stay that way. I intend to."

TRIBUTE TO SANDRA C. BOJTOS

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce to the House of Representatives the winner of Guam's 1993-94 Top Teacher Award, Mrs. Sandra C. Bojtos.

Mrs. Bojtos is a 7th and 8th grade science teacher at Untalan Middle School. Her unique educational and motivational technique as well as her desire to reach out to every student have distinguished her among her hard working colleagues. Mrs. Bojtos also makes extra efforts to see that her classes are learning to their potential and preparing themselves for the 21st century. Her students are introduced to the information highway and know first hand the usefulness of modern computer technology. But, her commitment to education goes beyond her science teaching.

Mrs. Bojtos is also an American Red Cross HIV/AIDS instructor and a member of the

Kappa Delta Pi International Reading Association. These activities did not win her this distinction but rather typify the energy and spirit that set her apart and make her a role model for others. Mrs. Bojtos will receive \$10,000 from Citibank for this award. She has already said that she may partially use this award to upgrade her class' computer equipment.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Citibank corporation who sponsored this event for the second consecutive year. Citibank has made itself a leader in corporate support of education in the Asia-Pacific region and I commend their efforts.

Congratulations, Sandra Bojtos, for being recognized as Guam's Top Teacher.

HONORING ROBERT SPILLANE

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 21, 1995

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Fairfax County School Superintendent Robert "Bud" Spillane. Bud Spillane was selected as Superintendent of the Year on February 10, 1995. The announcement was made in New Orleans, LA, at the American Association of School Administrators' National Conference. Spillane was one of four finalists in the national competition, which was sponsored by the ServiceMaster Co. of Downers Grove, IL. Spillane was originally selected as a finalist among this year's State superintendents of the year, each of whom represents one of the States or U.S. schools overseas.

AASA will award a \$10,000 scholarship in Spillane's name to a student attending the high school from which he graduated, which is Windham High School in Willimantic, CT. Spillane also received a gold medallion and a \$2,000 savings bond.

For the past 10 years, Spillane has served as superintendent of the Nation's 10th largest school system, which has approximately 140,000 students in 224 schools and centers, located in a 399-square-mile area. With recent demographic trends in Fairfax County that include an increasing minority student population, more students from lower income families, student achievement in Fairfax County public schools has improved. The percentage of minority students taking SAT's and advanced placement courses has substantially increased, as have minority students' and overall students' test scores. The school system's overall dropout rate has declined to 1.9 percent. Fairfax County public schools' magnet school for science and technology has had more National Merit Scholarship semifinalists than any other school in the country every year for the past 5 years. The percentage of special education students employed after graduation is 87 percent, compared to 46 percent nationally.

Spillane continually implements programs that improve the achievement of all students, encouraging creative and instructional approaches, and strengthens the core academic program of the average student. In a time of rapidly changing demographics and financial recession, Spillane has continued to focus on